

**§ 51.7 Passport property of the U.S. Government.**

(a) A passport at all times remains the property of the United States and must be returned to the U.S. Government upon demand.

(b) Law enforcement authorities who take possession of a passport for use in an investigation or prosecution must return the passport to the Department on completion of the investigation and/or prosecution.

**§ 51.8 Submission of currently valid passport.**

(a) When applying for a new passport, an applicant must submit for cancellation any currently valid passport of the same type.

(b) If an applicant is unable to produce a passport under paragraph (a) of this section, he or she must submit a signed statement in the form prescribed by the Department setting forth the circumstances regarding the disposition of the passport.

(c) The Department may deny or limit a passport if the applicant has failed to provide a sufficient and credible explanation for lost, stolen, altered or mutilated passport(s) previously issued to the applicant, after being given a reasonable opportunity to do so.

**§ 51.9 Amendment of passports.**

Except for the convenience of the U.S. Government, no passport may be amended.

**§ 51.10 Replacement passports.**

A passport issuing office may issue a replacement passport without payment of applicable fees for the reasons specified in § 51.54.

**Subpart B—Application**

**§ 51.20 General.**

(a) An application for a passport, a replacement passport, extra visa pages, or other passport related service must be completed using the forms the Department prescribes.

(b) The passport applicant must truthfully answer all questions and must state every material matter of fact pertaining to his or her eligibility

for a passport. All information and evidence submitted in connection with an application is considered part of the application. A person providing false information as part of a passport application, whether contemporaneously with the form or at any other time, is subject to prosecution under applicable Federal criminal statutes.

**§ 51.21 Execution of passport application.**

(a) *Application by personal appearance.* Except as provided in § 51.28, to assist in establishing identity, a minor, a person who has never been issued a passport in his or her own name, a person who has not been issued a passport for the full validity period of 10 years in his or her own name within 15 years of the date of a new application, or a person who is otherwise not eligible to apply for a passport by mail under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, must apply for a passport by appearing in person before a passport agent or passport acceptance agent (see § 51.22). The applicant must verify the application by oath or affirmation before the passport agent or passport acceptance agent, sign the completed application, provide photographs as prescribed by the Department, provide any other information or documents requested and pay the applicable fees prescribed in the Schedule of Fees for Consular Services (see 22 CFR 22.1).

(b) *Application by mail—persons in the United States.* (1) A person in the United States who previously has been issued a passport valid for 10 years in his or her own name may apply for a new passport by filling out, signing and mailing an application on the form prescribed by the Department if:

(i) The most recently issued previous passport was issued when the applicant was 16 years of age or older;

(ii) The application is made not more than 15 years following the issue date of the previous passport, except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section; and

(iii) The most recently issued previous passport of the same type is submitted with the new application.

(2) The applicant must also provide photographs as prescribed by the Department and pay the applicable fees